O 1 O R. 173

# *SERMO MIRABILIS:*

Or, The

# SILENT LANGUAGE

WHEREBY

One may learn perfectly, in the ſpace of ſix hours, how to impart his Mind to his MISTRESS, or his Friend; in any Language, *Engliſh*, *Latin*, *French*, *Dutch*, &c. Tho never ſo deep and dangerous a SECRET, without the leaſt Noiſe, Word or Voice; and without the Knowledge of any in COMPANY.

Being An ART, kept ſecret for ſeveral Ages in *PADUA*.

And now made Publick.

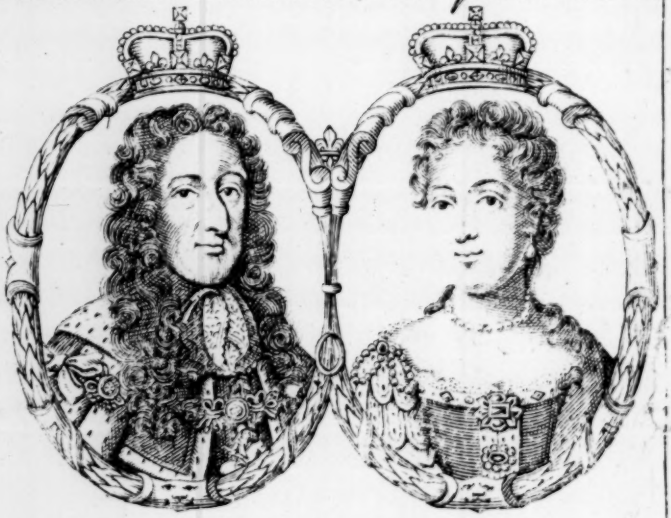
By Monſieur *La Fin*, once Secretary to his *Eminence*, Cardinal *Richlieu*.

Hug. Grot. *Secrecy is the Curtain of Policy.*

The Third Edition, with Additions.

*London*, Printed for *John Salusbury*, at the *Riſing Sun* in *Cornhil*, 1696.

*I, here, present before thy curious Eyes,*
*A World of Worth, and May of Monarchs,*
*Brave William With his Queen, Who did restore*
*Great Britain's Rights, and broke ye Roman Whore.*
*Long live, long reign, untill their Greatness be*
*The World's Commander, both by land and Sea.*



GULIELMUS ET MARIA: D. Gratia *Angliæ Scotiæ Franciæ, et Hiberniæ* REX *et Regina Fidei Defensores etc.*

GULLIELMUS REX } *Anagram* { *Re Lux sum Legi*
MARIA REGINA } { *Jam Ara Regni*

WILLIAM HENRY NASSAW,
*Anagram*
Heavens will save him.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

# *SERMO MIRABILIS,*
# OR THE
# SILENT LANGUAGE.

AS after the vulgar way of Comunication, Men ſpeak their minds by Word and Voice, ſo by this unknown and unuſual way, men declare their Minds by motions depending on a Natural *Alphabet*, as followeth

The Vowels *A*, *E*, *I*, *O*, *V*, *Y*, are ſignified by the Thumb and Fingers, of the left hand, *A* the Thumb, *E* the firſt Finger, *I* the ſecond Finger, *O* the third Finger, *V* the fourth or little Finger. And becauſe there is no place for *Y* among the Fingers, it is ſet in the plain of *Mars*, or hollow of the hand, as in the following Figure appeareth.

## The *CONSONANTS.*

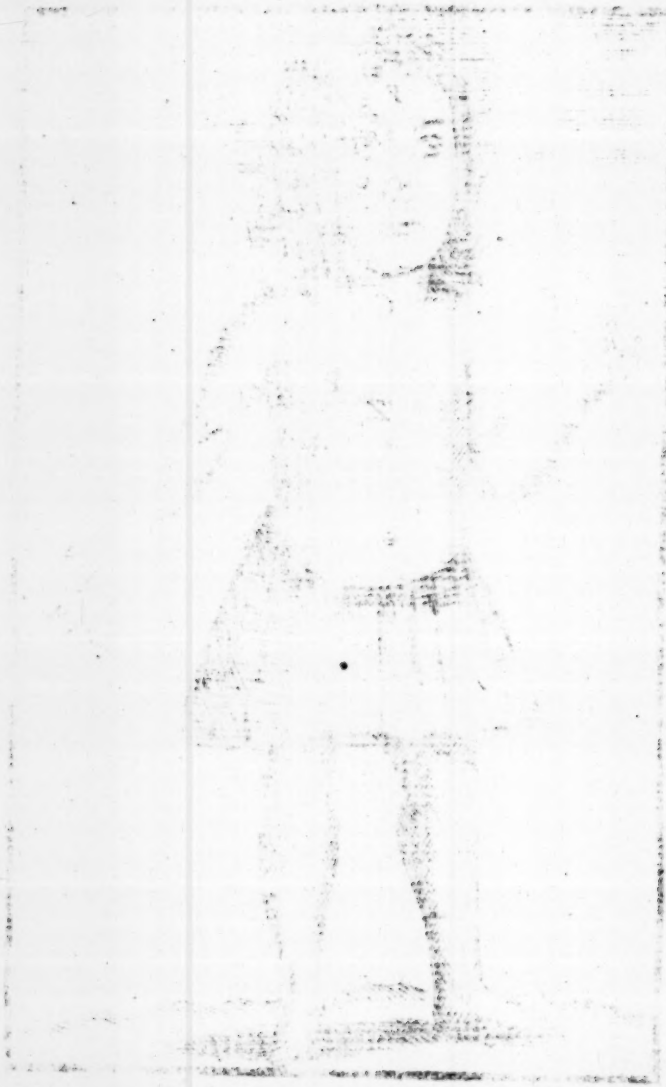
B———Brow
C———Cheek
D———Deaf Ear
F———Fore-head
G———Gullet
H———Hair
I———Eye
K———Knuckle

L———Lip
M———Mouth
N———Noſe
P———Pap
Q———Quick Motion with any Finger.
R———Rib
S———Shoulder
T———Temples
V———Vein in the Arm
W——— Wriſt
X———Two firſt Fingers a croſs
Z———Breaſt, lower part

Now it is here to be obſerved, that in this Alphabet, to make it the more natural and eaſy, every place of the body here mention'd beginneth with that Letter which it ſignifieth or repreſenteth. As *Brow* beginneth with *B*, *Cheek* with *C*, *&c.* But there being no viſible place of the Face and Body beginning with *D*, *Q*, *X* and *Z*; I have borrow'd the Repreſentation of *D* from the incident Quality or rather defect of the Ear, *Deafneſs*, which beginneth with *D*. *Q* from the *Quick Motion* of the Finger or Hand. *X* from its *ſimilitude*, or any two Fingers a croſs. *Z* is repreſented by the lower part of the Breaſt. Which all, by frequent uſe, will become as eaſie and ready as any other of the Letters repreſented more naturally.

Thus

F
C
G
S
P
Z
R
V



Thus the 24 Letters are repreſented by twenty four parts of the Body and Face, And as words are ſpoke with the Mouth, after the common way of expreſſing, ſo is the Mind here declared by Motions, as by pointing the firſt Finger of the right hand to that part or place which repreſenteth the Letter aimed at. Thus the ſilent Speaker muſt ſpell every word *alphabetically*, to him or her who hath learned and knoweth the ſame, as well as himſelf, and after every word, for diſtinction ſake, make a *Sign*, as by ſnapping with the middle Finger and Thumb of the right hand, or by ſome ſilent motion, as the ſtretching out of the Right hand, or any other obſervable *Sign* which both know and have agreed upon.

As if you were to call one *Rogue*, without the Knowledge of any in Company: Firſt you muſt move your Finger to your *Ribs*, which repreſent *R*. Then to the Ring *Finger* of your left hand, which repreſenteth *O*. Then to your *Gullet*, which repreſenteth *G*. Then to your *little Finger*, which repreſenteth *V*. Then to your *firſt Finger*, which repreſenteth *E*. Then, after the Sign given, all theſe Letters or Motions being obſerved, kept in Memory, and put together, by him to whom the Diſcourſe is directed, make up *ROGVE*.

It was my buſineſs lately to teach the Latin Language to a Merchant's Son at his Fathers Houſe in *London*, where a young Gentleman came frequently to viſit my Scholar, but intended to court the young Daughter over whom the parents kept ſo watchful an Eye that the young Spark could find no opportunity to make his Addreſs; but being one day at Table, and obſerving her to ſpeak to me, without opening her mouth, he pry'd further in the Art, and became my Scholar, for one day; in which time, I taught him how to ſpeak to her without the help of his tongue, and to impart his Mind without the knowledg of her Parents. Thus,

Firſt he moved his Finger
*To his Mouth*——M
*Then to his Thumb*——A
*Then to his Ear*——D
*Then to his Thumb*——A
*Then to his Mouth*——M

Then gave the *Sign* to ſignifie that the word was ended, all which the Lady obſerving, knew that the word was *Madam*.

*Then to his Eye*——I

Then gave the *Sign*.

*Then to his Lip*——L
*Then to his Ring Finger*——O
*Then to the Vein of his Arm* V
*Then to his firſt Finger*——E

Then

Then gave the *Sign.*
*Then to his Thumb*——A
*Then to his Ear*——D
*Then to his Mouth*——M
*Then to his middle Finger*---I
*Then to his Ribs*——R
*Then to his firſt Finger*——E

Then gave the *Sign.*
*Then to his Thumb*——A
*Then to his Noſe*——N
*Then to his Ear*——D

Then gave the *Sign.*
*Then to his Thumb*——A
*Then to his Ear*——D
*Then to his Ring Finger*----O
*Then to his Ribs*——R
*Then to his firſt Finger*——E

Then gave the *Sign.*
*Then to the hollow of his hand* Y
*Then to his Ring Finger*——O
*Then to his Little Finger*——U

All which obſerved and put together, make up, *Madam, I love, admire and adore you.*

The Ladys ſilent Anſwer was modeſt, and accompanied with a Smile and Bluſh. But the young Gentleman, under pretence of perfecting him in his new Language, made bold ſometimes to confer with the Lady, and at laſt, had the Liberty of a more frequent Converſe, by the Parents Permiſſion; till at laſt

he

he obtain'd her Affection, which did conclude in a happy Marriage

I lately made a Wager with a Gentleman to tell him his *Thought*: he was reſolute in the adventure, and laid ten to one; therefore to prevent all ground of jealouſie and ſuſpicion, I deſired him to go to the next Room and tell my Friend his *Thought*, which he did without heſitation. My Friend, by the help of this ſilent Language, imparted to me the Secret; which I, after a ſmall pauſe, revealed publickly, at which the Gentleman being amazed, thinking that I had known the Secrets of his heart, profer'd any reward whatſoever, for the knowledge of ſo deep a Myſtery; wherein he is now a good Proficient.

I was ſometime ago at a Tavern in *London*, with a Gentleman my intimate acquaintance, whom one in company intended to arreſt; and to that intent, having acquainted me, ſent a Porter for a *Serjeant* to the *Counter-Gate*: but I, to ſave my Friend from trouble, deſir'd him to be gone, or go to Priſon; whereupon he immediately took his leave, notwithſtanding his Creditor preſſed him to ſtay and drink the other Bottle, never ſuſpecting me to have given him any caution to prevent the imminent danger. But all the old Uſurer got by it was the Serjeants company, to drink a Bottle of Wine, and the paying 5 Shillings.

But

But tho this *Art*, in it ſelf, be both lawful and profitable, yet is there none more lyable to abuſe, by being perverted to bad and ſiniſtrous Ends; as cheating at *Cards*, and other Games, betraying and trapping men for private ends, ſowing Diſſention among Friends, *&c.*

I knew a witty and couragious Captain in *Flanders*, but of a vindictive Spirit, pretend great friendſhip to his Lieutenant, whom he mortally hated, and in token of his pretended reſpect, cauſed me to teach him this ſilent way of ſpeaking; pretending thereby to entertain the more cloſe and frequent correſpondence with him, till at laſt he brought him to that height of Confidence, that at all times he ſpoke his mind of other Officers without Fear or Diſcretion. The Captain finding the Spark ſo flexible, accuſed him to the Collonel as an abuſeful Fellow, that deſerved not to keep company with civil perſons; much leſs to bear Commiſſion among ſuch worthy Gentlemen: And to prove his aſſertion ſent for the Lieutenant, and (having obtained Liberty of the Collonel, to whom he had taught this ſilent Language) to induce the Spark, and free him from all diſtruſt, ſpoke very careleſly of the Officers, and eſpecially of the Collonel. The Lieutenant thinking all was ſafe, as under the covert of an unknown

Tongue, ſpoke ſo diſgracefully of the Collonel, that notwithſtanding his conniving then he ſent him in a ſhort time to Priſon, took from him his Commiſſion, and ſent him home in Rags to his own Country.

*Of Contractions and Abbreviations.*

As in *Engliſh* Print, one Character repreſenteth a Word of one Syllable, as *and* is figured by *&*: and as two Letters ſtand for a word of ſeveral Syllables, as *Dr.* for *Doctor*, *Mr.* for *Maſter*, *&c.* ſo may the ſame Method be uſed by motions in this ſilent Language, in all words that more frequently occur. Thus,

For *and* joyn both your hands together.

For *yes* ſhut your right hand.

For *no* ſhut your left hand.

For *Mr.* move firſt to your mouth, then to your ribs.

For *Dr.* move firſt to your Ear, then to your Ribs; and be mindful to give the Sign of Diſtinction after every word whither contracted or ſpoke at length.

Thus this ſilent Language admitteth no leſs of Contractions and Abbreviations, by Motions, than any other doth by Letters and Characters, as the Speaker thinketh fit.

*Of Numeration.*

There is one way of Numeration uſed among the *Grecians* which doth not exceed the Number

Number of 24, conform to the 24 Letters of their *Alphabet*, *Alpha* repreſenting 1. *Beta* 2, *&c.* Which may be here uſed in this dumb Language: as the *Thumb* 1, the *Brow* 2, *&c.* But this cometh far ſhort to the true meaſure of Numeration; therefore do repreſent the nine digit *Figures*, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. and the Cypher 0, by the Thumbs and Fingers of the Right and Left Hands: As when I would mention 1, I demonſtrate the Thumb of the Right hand, 2 the firſt Finger, 3 the middle Finger, 4 the Ring Finger, 5 the little Finger, 6 the Thumb of the Left hand, *&c.*

Now ſuppoſe you were to mention this preſent year 1696. Firſt you muſt demonſtrate, point out, or move the right

*Thumb to the left Arm*---------- 1
*Then the left Thumb to the right Arm* 6
*Then the Right Finger of the left hand* 9
*Then the left Thumb to the right Arm* 6
Which, in all, make up 1696.

But if you be to expreſs a Number bearing two or more Figures of one ſort, as 11, 22, 33, *&c.* Then you muſt either demonſtrate, or move the ſame Finger to the oppoſite Arm twice, or as oft as there are Figures to be expreſſed.

As for the number 11, you muſt move the right Thumb to the left Arm twice, for 22

you muſt move the firſt Finger of the right hand to the left Arm twice, if the Number contain three figures of one ſort, as 333, then move the middle Finger of the right hand thrice, and ſo of all the Numbers of this kind.

Now to make merry, one may deſire any in Company to think on a Number, and tell it to his Friend; leſt he forget or prevaricate, which he may wager to tell, without his information; he only to whom the Number is imparted, giving a few private ſigns, according to the Rule above mentioned.

But if by frequent uſe, this way of ſpeaking ſhould turn common, and not ſafe to declare one's mind by; then let any two Letters of the Alphabet, eſpecially the *Vowels*, or any two of the digit Figures be changed to other Motions; and that will ſecure the Speaker from the laſh of a dangerous hearer or informer. As by changing *A* to the *Arm*, *E* to the *Elbow*, *&c.* And as for the Figures, they may be changed without trouble as the Speaker pleaſeth. And if this way of Numeration prove difficult, let the Number be ſpelled at length by Letters, and that is the ſurer way.

*Of the Latin Language.*

AS the ſame Letters which write or print *Engliſh*, will alſo write or Print *French*, *Dutch* or *Latin*. So by the preceeding *Alphabet*, you

F
G
A E I O U
H
P
B
C
V

you may expreſs your mind whatever be the Language. But that they who are Maſters of the Latin Tongue may have the advantage of thoſe who are unlearned. I ſhall here ſet down an Alphabet, which dependeth only on Latin words, thus,

The Vowels A E I O U are the ſame with the Engliſh.

B——————*Brachium*
C——————*Cubitus*
D——————*Dentes*
F——————*Frons*
G——————*Gena*
H——————*Humerus*
I——————*Oculus Dexter*
L——————*Labium*
M——————*Mentum*
N——————*Naſus*
P——————*Pectus*
Q——————*Digiti motus celer*
R——————*Reduvia*
S——————*Supercilium ſiniſtrum*
T——————*Tempora*
V——————*Venter*
X——————*Indices tranſverſi*

Thus are the Latin Letters repreſented and (as in the Engliſh) you muſt move the firſt Finger of your right hand, to that place which repreſenteth the Letter which doth fit your purpoſe. As for Example; put caſe you were

were at the Tavern, and had no Money about you, and intended to borrow a Crown or Noble of your Friend, without the knowledge of any in Company, in these words, *Accommoda mihi Aureum.*

Move the first Finger of your right hand to
*The Thumb of the left hand*——A
*Then to your Elbow*——C Cubitus
*To your Elbow again*——C Cubitus
*Then to your Ring Finger*——O
*Then to your Chin*——M Mentum
*Then to your Ring Finger*——O
*Then to your Teeth*——D Dentes
*Then to your Thumb*——A
Then give the sign and the word is *Accomoda.*
*Then to your Chin*——M Mentum
*Then to your middle Finger*——I
*Then to your Shoulder*——H Humerus
*Then to your middle Finger*——I
Then give the Sign and the word is *mihi.*
*Then to your Thumb*——A
*Then to your little Finger*——U
*To the skin over your Nails*——R Reduvia
*Then to your first Finger*——E
*Then to your little Finger*——U
*Then to your Chin*——M Mentum
Then give the Sign and the word is *Aureum.*

Which all together make up *Accommoda mihi*

*mihi Aureum*; or, lend me a Crown. And by this Means, one may ſave his credit and put his Friends kindneſs to a Tryal.

As for *Diphthongs*, they are little neceſſary to thoſe who are Maſters of the Latin Tongue, but the moving of two Fingers of the right hand to any two Vowels of the left maketh a *Diphthong*.

*As the Thumb and firſt Finger make* Æ
*The Ring and firſt Finger make*——OE
*The Thumb and little Finger make*---AU
*The firſt and little Finger make*——EU
*The firſt and middle Finger make*—— EI

So that if you point once, theſe two Vowels or Fingers of your left hand, with the firſt and ſecond Fingers of your Right, you ſignifie two Vowels; and the Conjunction of two Vowels make a *Dipthong*.

Lately, being in Company, I laid a Wager with a Gentleman, to tell him any *Word* or *Sentence* he did impart to my Friend in *Latin*, without his Information, and my Friends *Word* or *Writing*. The Gentleman did conjecture, that I could know by Signs, ſomething of his meaning; but could not know the individual *Word*: Therefore, being confident in his own Judgment, laid a Wager of ſix Bottles of *Canary*. The *Vintner* himſelf holding ſtakes; And ſo my Friend

*Firſt*

*First moved his Finger to his Teeth*——————D Dentes

*Then moved the first, and second Fingers of his right hand, to the Thumb and first Finger of his left*——————Æ

*Then to his Chin*——————M Mentum

*Then to the ring Finger of his left hand*——————O

*Then to his Nose*——————N Nasus

Which all put together, make up the word DÆMON, by which the young Spark swore, when he lost the Wager, which the *Vintner*, who held Stakes, was not backward in bringing in.

## POSTSCRIPT.

THus have I said all that, at present, I intend on this Subject. I hope it will prove acceptable, especially to the more knowing and courteous, if not, I shall be very sorry, However the price is small, and the time of perusing but short, and so both expence and loss will be but inconsiderable. I have laid a Foundation, whereon a more ingenious may build; and at first my intention only was

*Stamina prima jugo imponere, atque ut altera Virtus*
*Inserat in medio Radiis sub tegmen acutis.*

*FINIS.*